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THE LIGHT BEER AND WINE RESOLUTION

(Editorial in Chicago Evening Post)

Ald. Steffen described it as bunk, and there was plenty of it around—and of more dangerous stuff than bunk, too—when the city council passed that light wine and beer resolution.

At the instance of Bathhouse John Coughlin, who, despite his years, is getting to be the pacemaker of Chicago's aldermanic body, the council showed its hand by tacking the soldiers' bonus onto its anti-Prohibition spread-eagle. Why didn't it tack on a mothers' pension, too, and win the support of the women to the side of booze and the bad old days? Why not tax light wine and beer and use the money for a nickel fare? or for cheer checks and smile coupons? The bonus has its fine appeal to the patriotism and gratitude of the nation, but it is a poor compliment to the veterans to use their compensation as a joker for the benefit of the saloon politicians.

Then Ald. Cermak, traditional leader of the wets, stood up in the council and showed that his forces are still the forces of lawlessness. He threatened the mayor for following the advice of his corporation counsel and enforcing a law deliberately decreed by the representatives of the people of Illinois. We scorn Debs for urging resistance to the law of the land; yet Debs was a private citizen, and resisted the will of the people for a theory and at great personal risk. Cermak, a public official sworn to support the laws, undertakes the political anarchy of an attack from behind on the enforcers of a statute which he personally does not happen to approve, and does it without risk. This is more serious than mere ordinary city-council bunk.

We do not question that Chicago has a right to express her sentiment on the issue of liberalizing the Prohibition enforcing laws, through the medium of a memorial to Congress; but have the aldermen any mandate to speak at this time? We doubt if the council's action represents any more today than would the action of any other fifty-two citizens. For Chicago is well divided on the light wine and beer proposal. Thinking people know that until the great job of enforcing the Constitution of the United States against our hordes of criminals and alcoholics and political anarchists is better organized than it is today—and the organizing of the world's greatest experiment will take a half-dozen years—the coming of light wine and beer means the return of the open saloon and the betrayal and abandonment of the whole experiment.

So the great moderate law-abiding majority in the country is hanging back from the beer-and-wine proposal and nothing is likely to come of it. The best plan is to enforce the Constitution, give the experiment a chance, and then, if the people desire, liberalize Prohibition or even repeal it, according to the deliberate, reasoned decision of the majority. This is sanity, the present resistance of the law by the minority is anarchy.

reaction and imperfect enforcement. In these figures there is great promise for the future.

Two disturbing factors in the present situation viewed at the beginning of the third dry year are the listlessness of the dries and the activities of the wets. Prohibition itself has made good. It only remains to be seen whether the vast majority who favor Prohibition will permit the nullification of this law by the aggressive minority. If the loyal friends of Prohibition will stand yet awhile firm in the defense of the law America will establish for itself and eventually for the world, the greatest thing yet achieved for the welfare of mankind.

Community Co-Operation for Enforcement

Some great ancient general credited his many victories over superior numbers to the following simple military strategy: Cut the enemy's army in two, and then successfully defeat each half. This illustrates that any force composed of individuals is only as strong as the number fighting in the same place at the same time. In the old rough days big bullies used to throw out the challenge, "I can lick the whole crowd of you—one at a time."

In many places law-abiding citizens are like the divided army or the crowd that fights one at a time. Organization for enforcement unites the efforts of law-abiding citizens in support of the law. This is the most important business before any community in the state of Illinois today.

Keep on Watching the Courts

Wm. H. Thompson, Mayor of Chicago, has ordered the police department to do its duty under the Illinois Prohibition act and enforce the law. Charles C. Fitzmorris, general superintendent of police, has ordered his police captains and all officers and members of the force to enforce Prohibition. Now it is largely up to the courts to make a success of law enforcement. Unless the courts back up the mayor and the police by giving offenders fines and sentences heavy enough to prevent law violations, enforcement will fail. Some Chicago judges have already failed to do their duty. By light fines and even wholesale discharges without fines in liquor cases they have encouraged further law breaking. This must stop. If judges backed by citizens and all enforcement agencies will do their part Chicago can easily be made the cleanest, most decent, prosperous, progressive, and orderly big city in the world.

"Reaction" Made to Order

In his appeal for beer and wine letters to Congress, the leader of one of America's forty new wet organizations makes this interesting suggestion:

"It will be helpful if you can get one such letter from a woman voter, one from a resident of a rural district and one from a citizen of the mid-west."

How clever, and simple! Most women are for Prohibition. The rural districts are drier. Prohibition is at home in the mid-west. A brilliant idea—get wet letters from women, from rural districts, from the mid-west. Then in a press receptive to wet propaganda herald the thrilling news that there is a great, overwhelming, sweeping reaction against Prohibition!

The above wet scheme indicates the increased interest there should be and the increased importance there will be attached to the number of votes cast by women as well as by men for dry candidates at the primaries on April 11.

Now It's H. G. Wells

Add the name of H. G. Wells to the list of prominent English writers who have been guests of America and departed criticizing our Constitution. Lord Northcliffe, England's great newspaper publisher, visited here a few days then in statements and in his papers declared Prohibition a failure. G. K. Chesterton, novelist from England, lectured in America and called Prohibition a failure. John Drinkwater, English playwright, author of "Abraham Lincoln," visited America then criticized the great movement toward the realization of Lincoln's dream, a land with neither drunkards nor slaves. And now it's Wells. In an interview at the time of his departure a few days ago he said that Prohibition is not a success so far as he had observed. May we ask these distinguished visitors to explain the sixty per cent increase in drunkenness in liquor-licensing England compared with the 60 per cent decrease in Prohibition America? May we express the opinion that the views of the above mentioned English novelists, journalists, playwrights and historians are outweighed by the opinion of a distinguished English scientist, Dr. C. W. Saleeby, who declares that alcohol is a race poison and that Prohibition is the hope of the world.

The Best Answer to the "Beer and —" Whine

The Chicago City Council has declared in a resolution that Prohibition is unpopular and a failure. It has expressed the opinion that beer and wine legislation is the nation's greatest need. It has asked city councils in all other large cities to pass similar resolutions. The leader of the wets of Illinois who is also the wet leader of the council in Chicago has threatened that he and his friends will make trouble for the Mayor if he continues to order Prohibition enforced. This wet leader has also declared that legislators and representatives who voted for enforcement measures will one by one be recalled from Springfield and Washington.

The Association Against the Prohibition Amendment has launched its campaign in Illinois for the election of a beer and wine legislature and the sending of a beer and wine delegation from Illinois to Washington.

There is only one decisive answer that can be made to the arguments and the threats of the beer and wine crowd. That answer is ballots in the box on April 11, marked for endorsed dry candidates.

Organized attacks against Prohibition have not ceased. Prohibition is not safe in the hands of officials who do not favor the law and have no regard for the oath of office.

Wet Mayors in Dry Towns

A well known Illinois city, dry for over 50 years, has a wet mayor. Many other Illinois cities dry for many years are officially presided over by slackers in the matter of Prohibition enforcement. This should not be so. Dry men should be nominated and elected to fill all offices having to do with carrying out the purpose of the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution. There is no excuse for permitting wet men to slip into official places in which they can block enforcement. There is no reason for building the civic structure with wet lumber as long as there is so much good, dry, seasoned timber in the woods.

Lincoln -- Booth -- Moonshine -- and Murder

If Prohibition had been in effect when Booth, crazed with whisky, murdered Lincoln, and if present day news writers had reported the tragedy, they would have blamed "moonshine." Read the interesting bit of history by Charles M. Sheldon somewhere in this number.

CHICAGO FRIENDS OF BEER AND WINE IN NEW CAMPAIGN

Branch of Wet Association Gives Dinner at Blackstone Hotel

Invitations to a banquet issued by the local branch of the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment were received by many Chicago business men last week. The meeting was announced to take place at the Blackstone Hotel on the evening of January 12. The invitation contained the following statement:

"The object of the meeting is to discuss the amendment to the existing Prohibition laws, and for the purpose of forming a local organization to assist the national association in its efforts to modify these laws, so as to permit the sale of beer and light wines. The platform contemplates the distribution thereof, through federal or state agencies, and the elimination of the saloons. It is proposed to associate reputable citizens, who do not now and never have had any connection with the liquor interest, to favor a platform of beer and light wines and no saloons."

A long list of names was signed to the invitation. Both invitation and the names signed were printed in the Chicago papers. This was in harmony with the practice of this particular wet group in endeavoring to borrow respectability by securing the names of prominent citizens to sponsor their meetings.

Senator A. O. Stanley and Captain Wm. H. Stayton of Baltimore, who is of the A. A. P. A., were announced as speakers.

The Association Is Active

The following letter dated January 5, 1922, recently received by an Illinois member of the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment, discloses the plan of this organization to secure the aid of women voters in its program of nullifying the Constitution through the repeal of enforcement laws.

"Dear Madam:

"I beg leave to ask you to exercise your civic privileges by writing the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee your wishes concerning light wines and beers."

"The facts are given in the enclosed memorandum, and many of our members are helping us."

"The politicians presume that all women are Prohibitionists; consequently, your letter, taking the contrary view, will outweigh a dozen letters from men."

"If you could secure action from some club or organization, or if you would organize a committee and become its chairman to make concerted efforts to get citizens in your community to write such letters, it would be a valuable patriotic work."

"I will greatly appreciate a personal reply informing me of the action you take."

Very truly yours,
 (Signed) W. H. Stayton.

A circular accompanying the above letter contains this significant paragraph:

"It will be helpful if you can get one such letter from a woman voter, one from a resident of a rural district and one from a citizen of the mid-west."

NEW YEAR DRIEST IN THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY

Large Cities Report Sober and Quiet New Year's Dawn

A thing of the past are the drunken orgies with which New Year's was always ushered in during the old days of drink. Chicago and New York report a quiet time with little drinking on the occasion of the old year's passing and the new year's arrival. At all Chicago hotels there were great crowds of diners but few drinkers and little drunkenness. This paragraph from the Chicago Herald-Examiner indicates the change made by Prohibition:

"The streets of the loop district showed the effect of the passing of John Barleycorn as a public actor. Chief Hughes, returning to his office at 11:30 o'clock after a tour of the loop, remarked upon the unprecedented New Year's Eve lonesomeness."

"Why, it's like any other Saturday night," he said. "Except for the theater crowds there seems to be few abroad. And there was no crush in the cafes and dining rooms."

The same article said, "Though it was still a bit damp it was Chicago's driest New Year's Eve."

A Quiet City

The Chicago Tribune's New Year's report said:

"Roughly, some \$50,000 worth of moonshine, as against an estimate of \$600,000 worth of wine on New Year's Eve of 1916—this and restaurants crowded with rather orderly pleasure-seekers, a city furtive under the eyes of federal and city raiding squads, a quiet loop compared with the bedlam of the good old days, was the celebration last night which ushered in 1922."

"State street, ordinarily a cañon of howling hospitaliers of a New Year's Eve, was a dignified, staid thoroughfare, frowning down upon the infrequent raucous toot of the tin horn in the hands of the street merchants, all of whom wore a more or less disgruntled expression."

Fewest Fatalities Reported

A Washington dispatch of January 2 gives this gratifying report and prediction relative to the past and future New Year's nights:

"The year 1922 was ushered in with less fatalities from whisky drinking than in any previous year, Prohibition officials said today."

"There was less drinking because would-be consumers would not take a chance on poisoned bootleg liquor," Assistant Prohibition Commissioner Jones said. "Officials charged with enforcement of the Volstead law predict each succeeding year will show a reduction in the amount of liquor consumed."

MICHIGAN HOME BREWERS TO RECEIVE ATTENTION

Indications multiply that home brew abettors will be treated next to the dry cleaning process. So declares Director James R. Davis of Michigan.

It is a well known fact that heretofore the illicit traffickers in liquors have commanded the attention of the dry officers almost exclusively. With the prospects of this bunch of law violators being suppressed, attention will then be turned to the home brew crowd.

The "Beer" in the Cocoonut, We'd Say

The meat in Alderman Cermak's cocoonut came out when he publicly told the mayor in the council meeting that if the police did not stop enforcing the state Prohibition laws his honor was going to hear from me and my friends.—The Chicago Tribune.

The Real Question

The question of selling whisky has long ceased to be a question of the relative advantages of Prohibition and license. It is now simply a question of upholding state and federal laws.—The Chicago Evening Post.

Too Many Candidates

It is an old and successful trick of the wets to wait with their candidates until as many dries as possible have gotten into the field. Then after the dry vote is split up by the many dry candidates the wets come in and easily defeat the dry candidates by concentrating their votes. They put just as many and no more wet candidates into the field than are needed by them to get the largest possible number of wet candidates nominated from that particular district. The dries should not be fooled by this trick this time. There will be wet candidates in every district and the dries must concentrate their votes or lose the next legislature, and other offices. In making its recommendations the League must endorse only as many candidates as can win. Any other course would lead to a division of dry strength and certain defeat. Prospective candidates who are dry should consider this situation for making their decision to enter the race.

Board of Trustees Meeting

This number of the Issue contains resolutions adopted and the report of the State Superintendent read at the semi-annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Anti-Saloon League. All interested in the future of the fight against alcoholism, the greatest evil threatening humanity today, should read the report of this meeting. Liquor foes should remember what liquor friends forget, namely that the Anti-Saloon League is a thoroughly representative body organized to carry out the purposes of the people who desire the complete destruction of the alcoholic liquor traffic.

The Primary Election Is the Real Election

The fact is not always fully appreciated by our friends, until it is too late to make amends, that the primary is the real election. Under our cumulative system of electing men to the legislature the Senatorial committees of each party determine the number of candidates that are to be chosen. The minority party in each district usually concedes to the majority party two of the three members. And the majority party usually concedes one member to the minority party. Accordingly the majority party nominates, usually, but two members and the minority party but one. These three are elected because of the fact that they are the only ones nominated. Even if both parties nominate two each, three of the four are certain of election.

In the Congressional field the primary in most districts is conclusive. There are only a few Congressional districts in which the vote between the two parties is close. This means that wherever the party vote is not close the candidate of the leading party nominated in the primary is almost certain to be elected.

The above facts should make it clear to every voter that if he or she is to help elect the legislature, or to save the Prohibition cause in the next Congress the voting must be done in the primary election. The primary is the real election. And the primary is only three months away. The date is April 11.

The End of the Second Dry Year

Two years of Constitutional Prohibition have brought truly wonderful blessings to the nation. There can be no measure of the good that has been done. There are many indications however of the deep, fundamental, vital, improvements that have been brought to the people by the Eighteenth Amendment. That Prohibition has helped morally, there can be no doubt. The law was a God send to America during the terrible back-wash of the great war. Physically figures show the past year to have been the most healthful in the nation's history. The decreased death rate of babies in New York City is a tremendously significant indication of what the abolition of legalized liquor dealing will mean to the future physical welfare of the dry-American race. Economically Prohibition has brought great and lasting benefits. The Chicago postoffice handled 50 per cent more Christmas packages this year than last when the nation was at the peak of its prosperity. This indicates substantial savings and sound financing.

Figures on crime and drunkenness although incomplete indicate that there has been a great decrease in these evils despite the war